

DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE  
**Intelligence Information Handling Committee**

To: DCI —

DCI/IC 77-1712  
7 April 1977

SUBJECT: Overview of SAFE-ADISS Commonality Issue

1. What are SAFE and ADISS?

a. SAFE is a large-scale system being planned to serve principally the CIA analyst population and possible INR/State. Important planned characteristics include the capability for analysts to interactively receive and send mail, set up local files, draw on agency central files, and manipulate data for analytic purposes. A limited, interim SAFE system is now operating.

b. ADISS is a conceptual system planned to upgrade the existing, 13-year-old DIA On-Line System (DIAOLS) which is now overloaded and becoming obsolescent. ADISS now exists only as a concept for a total information system environment to serve DIA locally and Service analysts worldwide. DIA is now negotiating a contract for a system definition study.

c. Comparison:

<u>SAFE</u>	<u>ADISS</u>
Centralized analyst users at CIA Hdqtrs	Worldwide analyst users in DIA, Services, Commands
Requires local communications	Requires worldwide communications
To handle diverse analyst problems involving non-formatted data	To handle fact-oriented problems, (e.g., force location, movements) which lend themselves to greater formatting in data bases

2. Could one system serve the entire Community? The answer is "No" for the following reasons:

a. Analyst types range greatly, from those supporting field commanders worldwide and using existing tactical ADP systems, to analysts supporting Washington customers at the national level.

b. A single system that attempts to embrace and harmonize the tactical and national spectrum will be too complex to design and maintain efficiently; it could be unreliable in operation because of its complexity and vulnerability points; it would be complex to use; and it would be extremely costly to build.

3. A prudent course of action is as follows:

a. Assume for immediate planning that more than one system will be required. Order maximum practicable commonality in system design. Identify and prescribe common principles to apply in use of technology. (Use the IR&D Council for this.) Establish central control over the critical points of requirements study, system design, contracting, and testing. (Use the IR&D Council, IC Staff, and DCI Committees as focal points, with regular reporting to PRC(I).)

b. Verify the foregoing assumption now. Do this by taking immediate action to bring in an independent outside expert to make a prompt overall assessment of SAFE, ADISS, and other systems, and to give his evaluation directly to the DCI, Secretary of Defense, and the PRC(I). The main question to be answered in the next three months or so is: Should present SAFE/ADISS activities be delayed, even at risk of losing FY-77 funds, in order to assure that the Community is moving together in a sensible, coordinated manner? The Community is not now together effectively.

c. Mobilize Community policy makers now to establish new Community principles or topics that ADP systems designers must have as "givens" in order to design any system. These include:

(1) Decompartmentation policy.

- (2) Standardization of data in organized files and procedures for better access to data. Standards for communications interfaces.
- (3) Principles for use of technology (e.g., maximize use of commercial hardware and software; build small systems first, and use test beds to gain experience before committing to total large system(s).

d. Do not limit this problem to an analysis merely of SAFE and ADISS. There are important systems at NSA now in existence or being designed which should be considered in any total Community effort to assess capabilities. The Analyst Terminal Systems Working Group (ATSWG) of the IR&D Council is now charged to examine all such systems. Their investigation should be speeded up. No decision on SAFE or ADISS as a community-wide vehicle should be made until the NSA systems are compared and evaluated, and until the IR&D Council has reported to the DCI.



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MEMORANDUM FOR: Admiral Turner

Following from Admiral Murphy:

18 APR 1977

"Your DCI Committee on Information Handling  
is working the problem of SAFE/DIALS (renamed  
ADISS). I recommend that you not surface  
this with Harold Brown at this time."

Date 7 April 1977

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Deputy to the DCI  
for the Intelligence Community

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